The A. F. of L. Weekly News Letter contains a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occuring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR
WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

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AGITATE! EDUCATE! ORGANIZE!

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"BLUE" LAWS IS ECHO OF "CAN'T-STRIKE" LAWS

The present agitation for movie censorship and "blue" laws is the sequence of "can't-strike" laws and again proves the rule that when one man is enslaved all are enslaved.

Every attack on liberty is first made against those less liable to successfully resist. Others plume themselves that "it don't affect me," but are awakened when anti-liberty night riders would establish statutory morality.

Men who refrain silent against the slavery of human beings have found themselves victims of that slavery, that had contaminated every phase of life.

There is a direct connection between "can't-strike" legislation and "blue" legislation. It is the history of man that when he acquires power, he will attempt to extend that power.

When men assents to law that would shackle labor to its employment, he must expect the enslavers to seek other fields of conquest. The attempt to regulate morals is the result.

The psychology—the state of mind—created by the terms "can't" and "blue" is identical.

Liberty cannot be compromised or juggled with. Whenever it is denied, the cost must eventually be paid by society as a whole.

Liberty demands as rigid an application of its principle as the law of gravitation.

The man who ignores this fact is not equipped to battle for freedom and equality.

If it is right to jail a group of Americans when they quit their employment, why is it wrong to revive "blue" laws against all Americans?

If an injunction judge can gag free speech or abrogate other guarantees, why is it wrong for some other "thou-shalt-not" to define the public's amusements?

Trade unionists resent the Pecksniff and busy body who would make people "good." But the Pecksniff is but an effect, not a cause. Behind him is the big regulator who chokes to death industry and trade, and makes himself ridiculous by charging the little regulator with being "unAmerican."

The entire posse of handcuffers, regulators and alleged moralists are unAmerican. None of them have an American ideal or grasp American fundamentals.

As long as they are tolerated America must pay the price that outraged liberty exacts.

How Sly Propogandists Mold Public Opinion

In the story headed "What the Cables Say" is the explanation of anti-union story printed in American newspapers with a London date. In the story "What the Facts Are" is a compilation of authoritative statements, from the London press and from English trade union publications.

Attention is called to the propogandist's "clever" manner of first spreading the poison that labor is responsible for much of the unemployment, and then inferring that "the causes of the present crisis" are unknown.

WHAT THE CABLES SAY.

One of the chief bones of contention between the government and the trade unions is the persistent refusal of the builders to permit dilution of skilled labor by employment of unskilled former service men. There is not an unemployed bricklayer in the country and work could immediately be found for 200,000 men, resulting in employment being provided for painters, plumbers, joiners, etc. Many of these facts the 50,000 former service men are forced to remain idle.

The tendency here for some time has been to regard every trade as close preserves.

Whatever the causes, the present period is one of widespread misery in the country and the out-of-work donations and other assistance doles are generally looked upon as merely palliative."

WHAT THE FACTS ARE.

The building craftsmen refused to dilute their membership to the admission of ex-service men on the ground that this was no solution to the unemployment problem. The government offered the unions £5 for every ex-service man admitted. The unionists showed that this meant that those of their members in the building trade would be laid off to give employment to others. On a referendum conducted by the National Federation of Building Trades the plan was rejected by a vote of 310,000 to 2,500. Among those voting were approximately 40,000 ex-service men who are members of the building unions.

The government has failed to present any constructive remedy for the unemployed problem, and its insistence that it is caused by the unionists, who charge its sponsors with other purposes.

RAIL PLAN IS COSTLY

Chicago, April 2.—The railroads' plea for economy was turned against them by their organized shop employes before the railway labor board in opposing the abrogation of national agreements. The railroads want to return to the old system of negotiating agreements with individual roads.

President Jewell of the railway employes' department, A. F. of L., said that this would cost $4,000,000 a year. For the 187 roads involved he figured since the first of the year 5,158 committee men would be required at a daily total expense of $66,760, and a total expense for 90 days of $5,313,142, besides additional costs.

"Much of this enormous expense," said President Jewell, "on both the management and railroad labor, together with the consumption of the time of highly skilled and essential railroad officials and clerical employes would be eliminated by co-operation between railroad management and the organized railroad labor organizations through the creation of a conference committee of three to represent on the one hand railroad management and on the other said railroad employes of their particular craft."

JURY SYSTEM SET ASIDE.

Charleston, W. Va., April 2.—The state legislature has act aside the American jury system by making it impossible to go into any court in the state and select a jury to try cases in another county. Under this system, the Matewan citizens who have just been acquitted on the charge of killing a Baldwin-Felts detective, can be tried on other indictments by a jury drawn from counties controlled by these company thugs, who have replaced constitutional law by the Lincolnian rule and rifle.

Strong appeals are being made to Governor Morgan to veto this vicious legislation that is so glaringly in favor of the coal owners.

ANTIS ARE HAPPY.

Seattle, April 2.—In their gite to crush the labor unions, the reactionaries, lobbyists for the associated industries report that 90 per cent of the bills signed by that organization were passed and 90 per cent of those defeated were opposed by them.

The antis opposed every humane proposal and defended every suggestion that would already large power of greed. During this campaign they showed their usual spirit of hatred for special privilege and class legislation.

DITCH ANTI-LABOR LAW.

Columbus, O., April 2.—Amid a roar of cheers the legislature vote, 97 to 0, on the Burns bill to put the state into the act was intended to prevent private building companies from doing business in this state, and is one of the many attempts against state-controlled compensation insurance.

WAGE SCALE IS SIGNED

New York, April 2.—After a two-weeks' negotiations the old wage scale of Granite Cutters' union has been renewed until April 1, 1923. Strikes are on for an eight-hour day

SICK SUPREME JUDGE ANNULS REFERENDUM

Seattle, April 2.—Officers of the Washington state federation of labor in charge that the direct legislation system in this state has been strangled by a sick justice of the state supreme court signing the decision without reading it.

"The decision against us was four to five," the unionists say. "Judge Mora was ill in bed and didn't know the case argued, but two days later, if is reported, was rolled over in bed and asked to sign the decision which he did—although he never heard it argued in court. The decision means that the seventh amendment to the state constitution, giving the people the right of referendum on acts of the legislature, is dead."

The decision was on the act known as the civil service retirement code, which rips up state labor commissions and social agencies, and places them under the control of one man, appointed by the governor. The initiative proposed the act and prepared to demand that it be submitted to a referendum. The legislature tacked an "emergency" clause to the law, which made it effective immediately on its passage. The state supreme court was asked to annul the clause, as no emergency exists, and, therefore, the clause violates the spirit of direct legislation by making it impossible for the people to pass judgment on the act.

The court held that the legislature "is the sole judge of an emergency." The unionists declare that this kills the referendum in this state, as the legislature will now attach an emergency clause to acts it would keep from the people.

WAGE CUT CHECKS STRIKE.

Washington, April 2.—A strike in the meat packing industry has been averted by representatives of the Amalgamated Meat Cutters and Butcher Workmen accepting a wage cut of 4 cents an hour, or 44 cents an hour for time workers and 12 1-2 cents for piece workers. The second came after a three days' conference with rennesentatives of the government and two days' hearing representing the packers. It was also announced that after six months the packers may abrogate an agreement made with the government and their employes. The agreement was extended in 1919 at the request of the packers to continue until one year after peace was declared.

Early in March the packers abrogated the agreement and cut wages. The workers voted overwhelmingly in favor of striking, while the sides accepted the government's mediation. The settlement means that the wage cut is retained and the agreement abrogation will be the unexpired portion. All the packers agree to is to forego scrapping the agreement until next September. It was also stated that the packers' storage houses are filled to overflowing with their products that could be used if the men struck.

SET PERILOUS PRECEDENT.

Chicago, April 2.—By abrogating an agreement entered into with the government and their employes, the packers have set a most dangerous precedent, says the Butcher Workman.

"The packers have disillusioned not only the millions dependent upon a livelihood in the packing industry as to their word of honor and their respect for an agreement with the government and its employers in the packing plants, but they have placed themselves in the case of a discouraging disregard for moral soundness.

"It is a dangerous precedent that should not be tolerated to preserve the morals and the welfare of the American people."

The Butcher Workman compares the packers' attitude to their vicious insistence that the contract be adhered to when a handful of employes disregarded it several months ago.

The fusion at that time secured enforcement of the contract by the threat of revoking the charters of the strikers. Now the packers have forfeited the contract then, but not now, when an industrial depression is on.

THEY TALK OF LAW.

Atlanta, April 2.—Receiver Burgess of the Atlanta, Birmingham and Atlantic railway, whose employes are on strike because of wage reductions, has refused to appeal from the railway labor board at Chicago and says he will abide by the labor board's order not to reduce wages.

Mr. Burgess—or, Colonel Burgess—is the federal law enforcement officer of Federal Judge Sibley, and he does not recognize the jurisdiction of the board.

No comment is made on this incident by the 100 per cent Americans who lecture wage earners on the necessity for law and its observance.

The railroad reduced wages and was forced to reinstate the labor board. Labor board until a hearing was held. The road was then thrown into the hands of a receiver who reduced wages with the sanction of the court. The employes are now on strike.

LINES HELD IN ARIZONA.

Phoenix, Ariz., April 2.—Despite attempts by a reactionary legislature to pass acts hostile to labor, Arizona trade unionists hold the lines. Publicity proved effective in rejecting a constitutional convention that would endanger the protection workers now have. Attempts to cut the child labor law, eight-hour laws and other remedial legislation also failed, as did the attempt to create a Kentucky constabulary known as the railroad police.

WILL SPRAY KIDS

New York, April 2.—A committee of the board of aldermen recommends that the city spray children summer to provide 1,200 showers for kiddies in the city's congested districts. Fifty showers are to be attached to fire hydrants and the children may gather under them. The "cleaning" will be supervised by city firemen.

OPPOSE RENT GOUGERS.

Pittsburgh, Pa., April 2.—"Rent profiteers" are denounced by the Pittsburgh Central Labor Federation, which declares that unwarranted rent advances is "pharisaism."

OVERTIME PROHIBITED.

New York, April 2.—In an effort to equalize work officers of the International Fur Workers' union have declared overtime prohibited, and threaten to expel from membership any member who is found guilty of working overtime. The order was issued to tightened their belts another notch.

LACK OF SOCIAL FAITH CAUSE CO-UP. FAILURE

Brantford, Ontario, April 2.—The failure of co-operation on this continent can be traced largely to a failure to appreciate the existence of a social faith, says the Canadian Co-Operator, whose editor declares that "we cannot build up a strong co-operative movement without co-operators; we cannot make good co-operators of people who know nothing of co-operation, without steady and persistent education in the principles and philosophy of the movement. It is not a question of temperament, but of co-operative intelligence. As Professor Stuart put it years ago in Britain, 'Education is the true seed of the co-operative movement.'

"While the co-operator incidentally derives many advantages from co-operation, the men and women who have been the movement what it is today have put far more into it than they ever extracted from it, because of their passion for social service, their confidence in the inherent cooperative principles and their ambition to contribute to the evolution of a better industry.

"Our weakness on this continent has always been the inadequacy of our facilities for co-operative education, and the widespread practice of attempting to establish the basic fundamental principles have been understood and appreciated. The consequence is that we have many operative spirit and a clear vision of the objective but the movement is too few in number and are financially not strong enough to afford their proper share of construction on a national scale. In consequence, hundreds of societies have been organized in the past which never had a chance to succeed. They organized on right principles they did not understand and to which they were not sincerely devoted."

DON'T IMPRESS FARMERS.

Washington, April 2.—Farmers are not impressed with manufacturers' claims that values have depreciated, says C. S. Barrett, president of the National Farmers' union and chairman of the national board of agricultural organization.

The farmers have read, says Mr. Barrett, of enormous profits made, and when the politicians point to depreciated inventories, that information is not lost on them in the same class, as he must operate his farm as usual while the corporations are juggling with the first sign of industrial depression. The farmers are not impressed, nor are they impressed with the assertion or panic is a man-made condition. They are not fooled by the action of their hearts and are determined that they can help it there shall be no repetition."

WON'T RECOGNIZE BOARD.

Atlanta, April 2.—Federal Judge Sibley denied motion of striking striking organized employes of the Atlanta, Birmingham and Atlantic railway that he rescind a reduction order and refer the matter to the labor board, which appeals to have the Cummins-Esch law. The court held that in accepting jurisdiction the board might be a better judge of wages than a court, but not in this case.

The road reduced wages and was compelled to reinstate them and present their case to the railway labor board. A bank then asked Judge Sibley to appoint a receiver for the road and the court granted the request. Wage cuts were then reduced with the sanction of the court.

LABOR SPIES CAUSE STRIKES.

Albany, N. Y., April 2.—Private detectives, "strikebreakers' spies and general trouble makers" declared Samuel Gompers, president of the A. F. of L., at a legislative hearing on labor spy activities.

"William J. Burns, for instance, has himself said that there are no secret service men, only spies, and private detectives, and he should know," said the trade union leader.

Hugh Frayne, general organizer of the A. F. of L., detailed cases where strikes were fomented by these labor spies.

Samuel Untermyer of the New York central trades and labor council spoke along the same line as Organizer Frayne.

CO-OPS. RETURN SAVINGS

Riverton, Ill., April 2.—During the year the co-operative store in this city at this place returned $2,157.61 to their members. The return was based on the amount of purchases at the co-op. store and is one of the outstanding benefits of the Rochdale system of co-operation.

So-Called "Efficiency" Has Run To Seed.

Manchester, N. H., April 2.—"The efficiency engineer is a pest," declares Dr. Royal S. Haynes, of the state board of health, in a statement issued here today. "Scientific experts of managers sprouted everywhere after the fad of outstanding novelty. The idea that it took years to learn to do anything well was shown to be false. Short intensive courses showed you how to stroll into the executive office of any corporation and reorganize the plant from top to bottom. All that was required was a derby hat, a leather case full of blue-prints and a snappy demeanor. The process of systematically installing a system with a punch behind it.

"The method of the blue-print, the chart analysis, the snappy approach, and the selling problem attracted intellectual leaders like moths. The churches fell ill of it, and the schools. Experiments of such parts of it as could be made to fit were rushed on helpless victims. Stress was greatly increased, and the workers were tightened up still another notch, because food was no longer a simple meal, but a mixture of proteids and vitamines. And still the machinery poured out newer efficiency experts of 57 varieties. They bawled at you from the magazines, from railing to train your memory or remember a million useless things that any sane person should give $150 to get. They could make you such a superb salesman that you could sell anybody anything. They had a drug for.

And all the while American business was becoming more inefficient. This is really odd. Is it possible that the machinery has gotten lodged in the methods of this multitude of experts, so that it is forced to go unburdened with any foolish handicaps as wisdom and experience? Think it over yourself.

"While in a train bound west my self and a young fellow manager of a large corporation that makes machine tools. This explained how to sell anything. He journeyed the country, among the 2's's customers, trying to re-establish the quaint, out-of-date relations of personal acquaintance and mutual interest and confidence, of what used to be genuine service. He was trying to sell nothing. He discovered and came to the conclusion that something was wrong with the system of blue prints and experts and charts.

HOME WORK SYSTEM DESTROYS CHILDHOOD

Washington, April 2.—In an investigation of children engaged in industrial home work in three Rhode Island cities, made by the United States children's bureau, it was found that 8 per cent of all the children between 6 and 15 years of age had at one time during the year done factory work in their homes, either by hand or machine. They assembled jewelry, strung beads, finished lace and underwear, carded snaps and worked on artificial flowers and numerous other simple operations incidental to manufacture.

In the majority of cases family need was given as the reason for home work. This work, however, added but little to the family income since the average earnings per family during the year from this source was $45. Over one-half the children were unable to earn as much as 5 cents an hour. Many of the children worked not only after school, but also in the evenings; some even worked until at night. A few of the children who worked all day in factories or stores also worked at home every night and eye strain was commonly reported. Teachers and school officials stated that home work interfered with school attendance and with children's health.

The home work system makes a factory out of the home, and the workers are subject to hazards from which they are not safeguarded by law, says the report. The health of the community is endangered by the use in making the finished articles made in homes in which infectious diseases are present.

Many of the home workers interviewed stated that it would be possible to make readjustments in their factories if the system of home work were abolished.

URGE DISARMAMENT.

Washington, April 2.—The race of the nations for naval supremacy spells bankruptcy, said United States Senator Borah at a mass meeting in this city. To continue such competition means ruin. The naval construction and experimentation in war must be halted, he declared, and makes it impossible that there should be any material reduction in taxes so long as they are now imposed upon individuals and all business organizations can be lightened. The only way to bring about disarmament except such an agreement with the other naval powers," said the speaker. "We should not place ourselves in the position of fighting single handed except through understanding or agreement with other nations."

Senator Borah called attention to the fact that more than 90 per cent of all money spent by the United States is for wars, past and anticipated.

POLISHERS GAIN

Chicago, April 2.—Through an agreement with Metal Polishers' Union No. 1, the Chicago Pneumatic Saxton Stove company piece rates have been adjusted that a wage of $1.25 an hour may be made. Metal polishers have also signed an agreement with the Cyclo Gyro company, which calls for $1 an hour and a 44-hour week.

Jersey City, N. J., April 2.—The Durham Duplex Razor company has withdrawn its case before the United metal polishers that rates be cut 25 per cent.

Cincinnati, April 2.—Officials of the Cincinnati Milling Machine company report that many affiliates are renewing last year's agreements.

THREADBARE TACTICS

Lafayette, Ind., April 2.—Cheap, threadbare tactics are the stock in trade of non-union labor, says Editor Skemp of the Painter and Decorator.

"The lawyer without a case flatters the jury and abuses counsel for the other side. The defendant of a bankrupt political party vilifies the opposing party and apostrophizes the flag.

"These specious pleaders impudently claim to speak for the majority of the wage earners and boldly assert that the non-union workers are not members of labor unions, not one to voted or penned by any partner. Yet publicity of author is either an unfair employer, a lawyer business agent or an outsider."

MUST PAY BENEFIT

Hazelton, Pa., April 2.—The anthracite conciliation board has ruled that coal owners must pay $150 to the families of miners accidentally killed. The custom of the mines was to attend the funeral but during the war the men began to pay the purpose of maintaining production the company should give $150 to the relatives and the men would remain at work. Now certain companies want to save that $150, but they have been ordered to continue its payment.

FLIRTED WITH ANTI; HAS FINGERS BURNED

Buffalo, N. Y., April 2.—A. W. Wilson, former member of the plumbers' international union, flirted with E. J. McCone, manager of the anti-union Buffalo Commercial, and is nursing badly burned fingers and a sad case of grouch.

Wilson as business agent of a small local of marine steam fitters that was affiliated with the plumbers' international. He wanted the regular Steam Fitters' union to permit affiliation of his local to do steam fitting in building construction and was told that Local Seven must submit to an examination before the union would vouch for their competency. The marine steam fitters refused to accept this offer and severed from the international. Wilson rushed to McCone with his tale of woe and the latter spread a wild yarn that the marine steam fitters declared for the "American" plan and were under union to permit. The Commercial also printed a letter that Wilson had signed by the seceders. Anti-union organizations throughout the country gave the yarn publicity, but ignored the facts in the case.

Wilson was the hero of the hour and began organizing the "independent building trades craftsmen's association," which McCone said he would finance the scheme. He also pleads that McCone took advantage of the weakness of himself and associates and that they did not understand the resolution given by McCone and signed by them on behalf of the union.

Wilson recently secured passing notoriety by his statement before the legislative committee that the international Typographical union maintains a censorship over the newspapers of the country. Even "comic book" by editors was so hot that McCone never recovered.

FORESTRY IS IMPORTANT

Washington, April 2.—The forestry problem affects every man, woman and child in the United States, said R. S. Kellogg of New York in the annual meeting of the forestry association of this city. The speaker said that last year this country used 8,000,000,000 feet of wood to produce 3,500,000 tons of wood pulp. This would require the felling of 1,000,000 trees, or 147 pounds for every man, woman and child.

"Just 217 years ago the first newspaper in America was printed; now 2,200 are published with a circulation of 25,000,000 copies," said Mr. Kellogg. "There are 10,000,000 whole circulation exceeds 100,000 copies and one Sunday paper claims a circulation of 1,500,000 copies. Each newspaper which he holds in his hand is 100 per cent paper. Thus the forests of our country, since wood fibre is the only constituent of newsprint, depend."

PRICES ARE "STABILIZED."

Newark, N. J., April 2.—"Last week prices in retail stores generally showed an increasing tendency toward stability," says the Newark Ledger, issue of March 28.

"In a list of 200 articles there were 54 increases and 31 decreases, small, is 62—only a little over 20 per cent. In 108 cases, or 54 per cent, prices were unchanged. The previous week the declines applied to 34 per cent of the total changes.

"In foodstuffs last week the prices of 10 were reduced and 3 increased, as compared with 16 downward.

"There can be no doubt about gradual business reaction being in progress and about, as a general proposition, there being no better time to buy.

"Price adjustment has not been completed, but the end is not far distant."

OPPOSE HIGHER BENEFITS

Harrisburg, Pa., April 2.—Employers are opposing a bill which would increase compensation from 66 per cent of the weekly wage to 66 2-3 per cent, minimum weekly compensation from $12 to $15 and reduce the waiting period from seven days to paid from 16 to three days.

The manufacturers believe that in the event of high prices an injured workers's family can be maintained on $12 a week. One of the manufacturers trotted out the good old standby, "Unconstitutional," and declared the bill void because the bill eliminates casualty companies.

OPPOSE PUBLICITY

Sacramento, Cal., April 2.—Employers interests are taking steps in opposing labor's proposal that every article of merchandise offered for sale by retailers in the public mart so the purchaser may compare that with the labor cost of the article.

The employers insist, however, that labor's living costs be figured in the cost of the article sold, and that this information be given the seller and buyer.

But objection is raised when labor suggests that these employers be compelled to make public just what it costs them to live, but what their goods cost them.

WIN 44-HOUR WEEK.

Okmulgee, Okla., April 2.—After a week's strike employes of bakeries have raised wages $3 a week on newspapers and established the 44-hour week in commercial plants. The new rates for night work on newspapers are $33 a week for the 44-hour week. Rates in the commercial shops will remain the same, but the 44-hour week will prevail.

COSSACKS FOR JERSEY.

Trenton, N. J., April 2.—The state legislature has passed the cossack bill over the veto of Governor Edwards.

The bill calls for the establishment of two troops of 100 men each, to be used by the governor in any locality by the governor on request of the officials of the municipality.

WANT LABOR TO "ADJUST."

St. Joseph, Mo., April 2.—Business men in this city suggest that labor "adjust" itself, thus handling may be stimulated. The workers suggest that the business men "adjust" their sincerity by cutting out war profits.

BIG PROFITS HIDDEN; STEEL TRUST GRILLED

Washington, April 2. — John Skelton Williams, former comptroller of the currency, renews his attack on the steel trust, and in a letter to Gary charges the corporation with hiding millions of dollars of profit in depreciation and other funds, and with blocking a return of business by excessive charges. He says the trust is able to double wages and still meet dividends.

Mr. Williams declares that in the year under discussion, over $100,000,000 were charged to operating expenses, for maintenance, repairs, etc. In addition to this regarding of these profits by this method of bookkeeping it is shown that on December 31, 1919, the corporation was carrying a high balance of over $200,000,000 to the credit of "depletion, depreciation and replacement funds," unexpended and available when needed.

It is also shown that from March 1, 1915, to December 31, 1919, the trust's net earnings, after payment of all interest dividends and excess profits taxes, and after setting aside enormous "reserve" funds for future possible contingencies, was increased by more than $461,000,000, according to the trust's official reports.

Mr. Williams says that after a fuller investigation of the facts, including the arguments submitted by Judge Gary in his letter recently made public, he is convinced more than ever convinced that "the high prices of steel and iron products are practically unnecessary, blocking the way to normal times and to the restoration of business."

MINERS ARE TRICKED.

Birmingham, Ala., April 2.—"If your decision does not drive the miners into the union 100 per cent strong, nothing will," said Van A. Hittner, representative of the United Mine Workers, in a letter to Judge Anderson, in the latter's settlement of the coal miners' strike in this state.

The strike has been waged for many weeks with the usual allegations of thuggery and evictions by the coal owners' gun men. The miners finally agreed to refer the matter to the governor, and in his award that official upheld the coal owners on every point. The decision is so biased that it surprised the coal owners—but they claim to be surprised.

"Governor Kilby's decision," said Van Hitter, "should be removed from the minds of the people any false hopes that they might have had that the governor was on the side of the people and to know that there is only one issue in the case that will bring about decent living conditions in the mines of Alabama, and that is the United Mine Workers of America."

PRICES RETARD BUILDING.

Cumberland, Md., April 2.—Although rough lumber has dropped to prewar levels in the wholesale markets, building operations have been in proportion to the decline and conditions in one of the chief preventives to extensive building operations, it was declared by a prominent wholesale lumber dealer. Other hindrances to building activities in this section, he said, is the increase in freight rates, which have jumped to nearly 100 per cent.

Lumber has increased 20 per cent and sandstone 10 per cent. In cost, but no appreciable increase has been made in brick or stone recently.

A building supply dealer stated that he does not expect to see much new building in this city until costs at the factories drop.

UPHOLD PRIVATE CONTRACTS.

Boston, April 2.—The state supreme court has upheld an injunction against Mackinists' union No. 264 in its strike against the United Shoe machinery corporation. The concern has private agreements, known as "welfare" contracts, with some of its individual workers, and the claim was made that the machinists were attempting to interfere with these contracts.

The court held these "welfare" dog contracts have been extended since they were legalized, but the Massachusetts supreme court in the Higgins case declared that they are not enforcible and a court cannot enjoin a company in advance from violating a statute, the court upheld a court company in demanding that workers sign a pledge not to join trade unions, as one of the terms of employment.

"GETTING TOGETHER"

Philadelphia, April 2.—Just about the time one Pennsylvania railroad was declaring war on its employes for co-operation, another official of the same corporation testified before the railway labor board at Chicago that the Pennsylvania maintains a spy system.

Samuel Rea, president of the road, testified the employes that "the directors of the company have given their word that justice and fair treatment shall be given to all."

F. W. W. Atterbury, vice president of the road, acknowledged in Chicago that a spy system is maintained, and that he could not inform the board how much the system costs.

REJECT RAILROAD POLICE.

Albuquerque, N. Mex., April 2.—The house has killed the Cutler bill that would empower the governor to appoint "peace officers" to ride on trains and act as guards in protecting property, the railroads to pay the salaries of those on duty in private army. One of the strong advocates of the bill was the chief executive of the El Paso and Southwestern railroad.

PRESSMEN MAKE GAINS

Pressmen's Home, Tenn., April 2. —Continued wage advances are made in affiliates of the International Printing Pressmen and Assistants' union, according to officials of that organization. These gains are recorded in every locality from California, and are the result of thorough organization and agitation.

PARROT TALK IN UTICA.

Utica, N. Y., April 2.—The proprietors of a dozen small commercial printing shops are indulging in the parrot talk of "economic crises" in their communities to the 44-hour week of organized printers.

MINERS' CHIEF RESIGNS.

Cleveland, England, April 2.—John Robert Clynes, president of the National Union of Dock Laborers, has resigned his position in the labor party to devote his entire time to the duties of his office. He is also a member of parliament.

FORGED ARBITRATION BANKRUPTING UNIONS

Sydney, New South Wales, Australia, April 2.—Arbitration courts maintained by the state have practically bankrupted New South Wales trade unions, declared Secretary Rawlin of the Gas Employes' union, in his annual report.

"There seems to be too much law, no arbitration in the true sense," said the unionist, who urged conciliation rather than arbitration.

"The arbitration court puts one in mind of being summoned to a jury, where the atmosphere of a court is all law, judges and barristers. The unions are being bankrupted because they are forced to pay big fees and other expenses necessary to place a case before the court.

"Take, for instance, some employes living their evidence in the court. They have to get time off from 4 to 5, but as soon as they step into the witness box and feel the atmosphere of the court they get nervous. The Judge puts questions, no doubt to help them, but they have been absolutely nothing about the work that the witness is giving evidence on and his questions, instead of helping, confuse the witness.

"Then the employes' barrister, being strictly trained to law and knowing nothing about industrial matters, has for his main object the confusing of the worker with technical law arguments submitted by Judge Gary in his letter recently made public. The true case of the witness knows nothing about his work and his evidence is not rellied.

"If he cannot confuse the witness he will try to make the witness and the Judge believe there is not the skill, responsibility or effect on the workman that the witness is trying to impress on the court."

Secretary Rawlin recommends that the cumbersome machinery of arbitration courts be junked and that they be replaced by conciliation conferences between employers and employed.

OPPOSE COSSACKS

Champaign, Ill., April 2.—By a 26 to 10 vote the board of supervisors of Champaign county has declared against the state cossack bill, now pending in the state legislature. This county is included in the district of Senator Dunlap, who introduced the bill, and is doing its passage.

The bill declares "that such a police force is not necessary for the good and welfare of our county, for the reason that the sheriff and the few members of said force are sufficient to police the county of the 102 counties of the state of Illinois would not be more than three or four of the 102 to have uniformed, would make a pleasing appearance at the head of a procession."

"Our county has full confidence in the sheriff and his deputies," said he, "and if at any time they may need assistance, they will gladly call them to the finish. In lieu of a state police, our sheriff may, if he deem necessary, appoint a force of three or four able men in each and every county in the state, a force of deputy sheriff—such men to be able to be easily reached and available by the sheriff or the sheriff of the people call on them."

OF COURSE!

Washington, April 2.—In the press bulletin issued by the Philippine commission of independence, it is stated that Manuel Quezon, who is one of the largest American investors in the Philippine Land—not in the United States—is to what he can to prevent the United States from carrying out its promise of real independence to the Philippine Islands.

"It is perfectly natural and human for capitalists to place the dollar above humanity," says the press bulletin. "But we do not believe that the people of the U. S. will be willing to violate a definite pledge of honor to 10,500,000 people in the name of a few thousand handful of persons who are interested primarily only in dividends."

AIR POWER IN NEXT WAR.

London, England, April 2.—"In the next war between great powers the battle fleets will be almost entirely for action before the signature of the armistice was dry," declared Major General Sykes, controller general of civil aviation, in a lecture in this city.

"For the cost of one battleship," he said, "400 aerial torpedo-carrying seaplanes could be built, and it is already questionable whether a battleship survive an attack launched by even a small force of this type of aircraft. The effect of air operation might be gas attack from the air, in co-operation with bombardment from the air."

POLICEMEN ARE CITIZENS.

New York, April 2.—"It is no part of a policeman's contract of employment that he barter his life or body for the wages he receives," said Supreme Court Justice Levy in a suit by a policeman for damages.

The policeman was run down by an automobile, and was awarded $17,000 damages by a jury because of a fractured skull. The defense claimed that the policeman was injured in line of duty, but the court ruled that the performance of duty does not prevent the policeman from asserting his claim as a private citizen.

MANY IDLE IN ENGLAND

London, England, April 2.—Unemployment is reaching menacing figures in this country. The ministry of labor reports that there are 1,145,000 registered unemployed and 1,000,000 on part time. These figures do not include unemployed who have not registered, nor those who are employed only a few days a week. The government is distributing unemployment doles, but it has evolved no constructive policy.

KILL COMPENSATION BILL.

Charlotte, N. C., April 2.—Manufacturers and ambulance chasing attorneys induced the state legislature to kill an employers' liability act that was urged by North Carolina trade unionists.

TEAMSTERS REJECT CUT.

Hamilton, N. Y., April 2.—Employees of the Hamilton Milling company, numbering 150, have rejected a wage cut of 10 per cent. The company has declared that there is no work for those who refuse the cut.